

Statement on asbestos find at Barangaroo Headland Park site

Boulderstone, as the design and construction contractor for the Headland Park, have comprehensive and robust procedures in place at Barangaroo's Headland Park construction site for managing any finds of asbestos consistent with regulatory requirements.

Due to the nature of Barangaroo as reclaimed land the presence of asbestos was expected. Extensive site investigations over the past five years have been undertaken and shown low levels of bonded asbestos

The safety of the community and workers is paramount and all precautions are undertaken with extensive monitoring and testing procedures in place on site.

Boulderstone advise that when asbestos was found on site yesterday, the required procedures in the Asbestos Management Plan were immediately implemented. Boulderstone is issuing its own media release on this issue.

When asbestos material is found, Boulderstone's procedures are to suspend work immediately in the affected area, isolate the area and have qualified personnel collect the material and store it in a sealed bin prior to its removal. The area is then certified by an occupational hygienist prior to work recommencing.

Since Boulderstone commenced work on the Headland Park in July 2012, asbestos has been found on site (13 times). The discovery of more asbestos is not unexpected and that is why there are robust testing and validation procedures in place.

This includes engaging full time occupational hygienists to undertake visual inspections during excavation, conducting extensive air quality monitoring in and around the site and an extensive testing regime.

The risks associated with asbestos were assessed in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment, with the management of asbestos contamination addressed in the Remediation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP has been approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the independent site auditor and the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure.

Prior to work commencing, an Asbestos Management Plan was prepared in consultation with Workcover, which documents the processes to manage asbestos when it is found and during excavation, validation, transportation, storage and placement.

In 2012, the EPA engaged a public health expert, Dr Driscoll to examine the asbestos management procedures at Barangaroo, and his report is expected shortly.